

The Priory Ruskin Academy

Term 5 Newsletter

A message from the Headteacher...

This year we have launched the highly successful Ruskin Respect Award; I am sure that you will have noticed students proudly sporting badges that recognise achievement in learning, progress, community, health and creativity. This term's newsletter highlights the absolute quality of the students' work in these fields. From Slam Jam success to sporting prowess, from the commitment of Rock Challenge performers to the work of students for the wider community, the flair of Ruskin students and staff is tangible.

Next term we look forward to further showcasing this talent with the much anticipated "Miss Saigon" performance, summer concerts and arts evening. I highly recommend these events to parents and friends of Ruskin as a chance to celebrate the genuinely inspirational depth of talent at our Academy.

Ms R Wyles

Rock Challenge 2016

The Priory Ruskin Academy joined schools from across the county to take part in the ever popular 'Rock Challenge' at the Meres on Tuesday 12th April. Determined Ruskin students performed 'Things Aren't Always As They Seem' confidently and passionately, acting upon the advice they had received over the

last 6 months of rehearsals. Students worked hard on all aspects of the performance from choreography, to costume creations and set design, no matter what their role on stage; a fantastic display of team work. Following an anxiety fuelled dress rehearsal in the morning, students took to the stage that evening with excitement and determination

replacing nerves and they gave an exhilarating performance! They left the stage with pride and beaming faces. The dedication paid off...with an overall third place and awards of excellence for choreography, performance skill, entertainment, drama skill, lighting and the soundtrack. A huge well done to all!



Year 9 Art Trip to The Yorkshire Sculpture Park

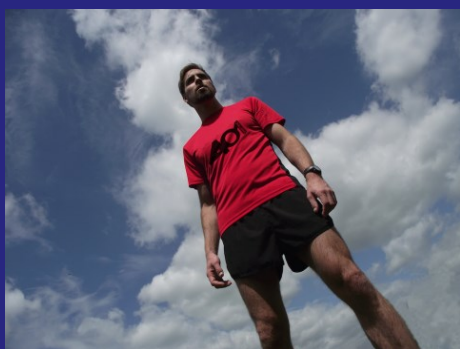


On Wednesday 18th May, Year 9 Art and Design GCSE students visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Upon arrival at the YSP students were divided into two groups. They were then each given a tour by a resident artist. The artist took their groups around a variety of different styles of sculptures which students drew as well as discussing their opinions of the work. Students saw Barbara Hepworth's group of sculptures called 'The Family of Man' and were also amused by the more contemporary mythical sculptures of hares by Sophie Ryder.

After lunch students were treated to an 'Open Air Sculpture Workshop', in which they worked in groups of five and were given a title based on 'Natural Forms' to represent as a sculpture using materials of their choice. This activity was a great deal of fun and encouraged the students to work as a team and to create an imaginative response to a title. At the end of the Sculpture Building exercise each group in turn had to describe and explain their sculpture.

An inspiring day was had by all!



Ben Smith 401 Marathon Challenge

On Wednesday 4th May Ben Smith made an appearance at the Academy on his route through the United Kingdom. Ben, who has challenged himself to undertake a world record attempt which will see him run 401 marathons in 401 consecutive days, was warmly welcomed as he made his way through the Academy's grounds.

His aim is to raise £250,000 for two fantastic charities, 'Stonewall' and 'Kidscape'. Both of these charities work tirelessly to combat bullying in our schools and society—an issue close to Ben's heart as he himself was bullied during his childhood.

In addition to being a motivational cheering squad, Ruskin students also held a raffle which raised £122.50 for Ben's 401 charity. A huge thank you to Eden House Hotel, Teaspoons and Sainsbury's for their kind contributions of raffle prizes and also to our wonderful Sports Leaders who spent their free time selling the tickets in support of Ben's amazing fundraising event. We look forward to hearing about him finishing his final marathon...in October! Good luck Ben!



Ukulele Workshop Inspires Students and Staff

On Friday 6th May, BTEC Music students delivered a Ukulele workshop to a group of Sixth Form students and teaching staff including Mr Lennon, Mrs Dodsworth and Miss Meadwell. The students taught their 'clients' a strumming pattern, four chords (the G chord being particularly tricky!) and a piece by Jason Mraz called 'I'm Yours' which was performed by the whole group at the end of the session. All involved enjoyed the workshop immensely and acquired new skills as a result. The lovely weather and the outside venue made it even more wonderful! A big thank you to the students involved and also for the students and staff who gave up their time to support the BTEC Music students with their 'Music in the Community' course.



Ruskin Mentoring Programme Complete Second Successful year

This year saw the second successful year of The Priory Ruskin Academy Peer Mentoring Programme.

Each year a small number of Year 7 students are paired up with a Year 13 mentor for weekly one-to-one sessions. These sessions are invaluable as they enable mentees to form friendships with their Sixth Form mentors giving them confidence as they settle into life at

secondary school. Responses from both mentors and mentees have been positive and it has been really lovely to see some close bonds being formed between the students.

In addition to the weekly sessions both mentors and mentees finished the programme with an afternoon of bowling. It is clear to see just how much the students have grown and developed. It is hoped that

programme will grow as the years go on, giving a wider range of students the opportunity to take part.



Year 12 'Eggsperiment'

This year Psychology students in Year 12 have been working hard to learn and understand a variety of interesting and engaging topics from Social Influence and Memory, to Biopsychology and Attachment. Ms Lynch decided to inject some fun and a different slant on lessons as part of their Attachment module when it occurred to her that one real way to understand the content being covered was to enable students to experience it for themselves. After much deliberation, the Eggsperiment was born! Students were tasked

with the care of their very own egg-baby – a raw egg and not a hard boiled or chocolate one – which they had to take care of for two whole weeks. Eggs needed to be brought to class and photographic evidence was also required as part of a final report that had to be written linking their experiences with the theory and content being learned about bonding and attachment.

Thoughts of scrambled eggs and smelly carpet came to mind, but to Ms Lynch's surprise students responded well. They decorated,

named and created safe little nests for their new babies. There were some early casualties, the first death at about the 5 minute mark when Connor thought it would be wise to place his egg on the desk and turn away, but generally all students tried hard to finish the project.

Overall, a very successful eggsperiment, full of egg puns and interesting stories; and hopefully they learned something too. Looking forward to doing it again next year!

Students Return From Exciting Week at Centre des Etoiles

Year 7 students have been enjoying some French culture as the end of their first year at the Academy begins to draw to a close. Travelling to France on different weeks and in House groups, the Priory Federation owned 'Centre Des Etoiles' provides students with a beautiful base from which to explore the interesting and varied sights of Northern France.

Students enjoy a jam-packed schedule: visiting Zoo du Jurques, exploring the slate mining caves at Les

Souterroscope, as well as a trip to the beautiful Bayeux Cathedral, including seeing the famous tapestry which depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England. Bayeux also allows the students to spend some time at a French market—sampling foods and obviously practising their language skills! A more sombre day includes the Juno Beach Museum and the beautifully maintained, and incredibly moving, Commonwealth war graves.

During a day trip to Cherbourg

students see Sainte-Mere-Eglise - where an English soldier was caught when he parachuted into France, ultimately being taken POW. Finally students visit the first French nuclear submarine and get to enjoy the Titanic experience.

Amidst all of this students have time for rounders and hockey matches, free time to enjoy the French Centre and the chance to get to know their fellow House members better—bonds that will endure throughout their time at the Academy and plenty of house competitions to come!



Ruskin Success at Annual Talent Contest, Slam Jam



The annual talent contest, Slam Jam, returned to Lincolnshire with a launch night on the 28th April, hosted by St George's Academy, Sleaford.

A performance based writing competition, students choose to write a poem, a story or a dramatic monologue and, without props or costumes, perform in front of a live audience. Students from The Priory Ruskin Academy, Tristan Holdford, Millie Walpole, Max Shepherd and Frank Cheevers, all performed well against tough competition from other schools in Lincolnshire including Bourne, Sleaford, and Ruskington.

Miss Jepson, who coordinated Ruskin's entry, said, "I'm very proud of our students, they performed well under scrutiny and are a credit to the Academy."

Following a nervous two week wait for results, the Ruskin team were delighted to find out that one group had made it through to the finals which will take place on the 23rd June—good luck!

The Priory Ruskin Academy is holding its Open Day and Evening on the 30th June! Please share with any friends or family who have children currently in Year 5.

Full details can be found on our website www.prioryruskin.co.uk

Jade Windley Visits Ruskin

Girls at The Priory Ruskin Academy benefitted from a special tennis mentoring visit on Tuesday 3rd May when professional tennis player, Jade Windley, visited the Academy to run coaching sessions throughout the day. Jade reached career high WTA world rankings of 159 in doubles (British number 3) and 279 in singles (British number 5). She has won 19 professional titles and has proudly represented Great Britain throughout her career. In 2013, Jade achieved her lifelong dream of competing in the main draw of The Championships, Wimbledon.

The session proved to be an inspiration to Ruskin students, with Jade explaining the challenge of balancing school work alongside her tennis training. Whilst at school, Jade became British Junior number 1 and won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in India, however, her academic studies remained incredibly important to her and, when she finished school and chose to pursue a professional tennis career, she had achieved 11 GCSEs and 3 A Levels.

During her professional career, Jade suffered two separate serious injuries; one of which almost ended her chance of playing the sport she loved. However, through hard work, determination and a great team around her, Jade overcame these challenging times and managed to compete amongst the best players in the world at the highest events, including her childhood dream of Wimbledon.



Music Therapy at Avery Lodge



On Friday 22nd April, as part of their Music in the Community course, the BTEC Music students went on a visit to Avery Lodge Care Home to have a look at how music is used in the therapeutic care of elderly and dementia patients.

The students sang along with the residents to popular songs they were

familiar with, such as 'Amarillo', but also, to the delight of residents, they did an impromptu performance of 'Can't Help Falling in Love'. The song was originally recorded by Elvis in 1961 but is also currently popular as a piece for ukulele and is a song that featured in the students recent concert.

The experience clearly demonstrated that music is a wonderful way of bringing both young people and the older generation together in our community. The vitality and enthusiasm of our students had a really positive and tangible impact on the residents' enjoyment of their music therapy session and staff were proud to have witnessed such a humbling experience.

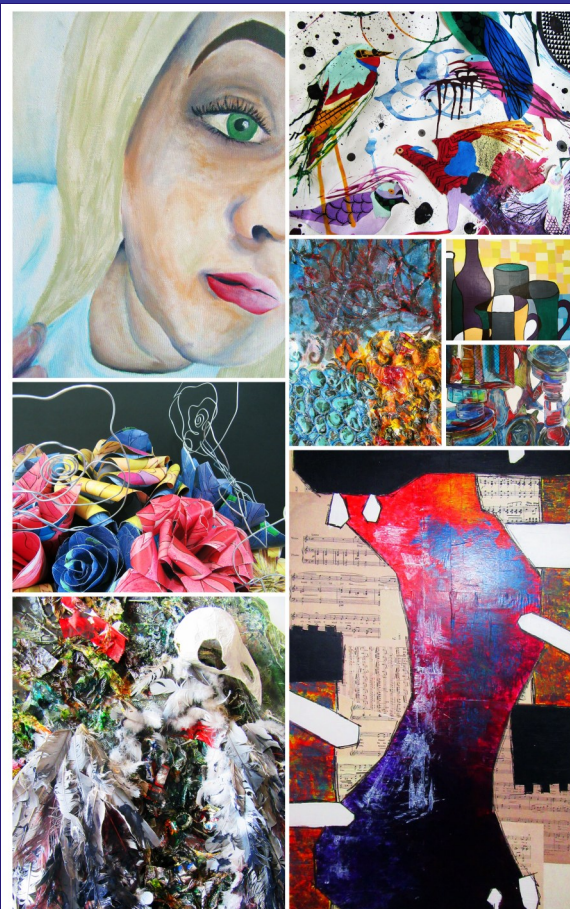
Brilliant Book Buddies

Shannon Garner and Shannon Fendley have been helping to organise the Year 7 reading group this term. They have produced an eye-catching poster and also some book marks which have been personalised for each student in the group. The book group aims to improve its members reading, encouraging students to read to their 'Book Buddy' once a week.



Artistic Talents Celebrated as Students Complete A level and GCSE Courses

Ruskin, with a joint specialism in Visual Arts, continues to shine when it comes to creativity! Below are a variety of examples of both final pieces and experiments across both coursework and examination projects from the Art GCSE and A Level groups.



Ruskin Careers Round Up

Ruskin is continuously looking to stay ahead of the rapidly changing careers landscape; inspiring students to aspire and working to provide critical access to advice, information and experience. During academic year 2015/16 students have benefited from a huge range of opportunities including our Academy wide Careers Day, industry and age specific sessions with the Royal Engineers and Enact NHS, as well as Educational Business Partnership workshops on finance, communication and interview skills. Our links with local businesses mean students have had the opportunity to learn about job roles and industries they may not have heard of before as well as workshops from the Rotary Club on writing the perfect CV and covering letter.

Priority year groups include Year 8 option groups and Year 11 and 13 leavers; these students have had one-to-one interviews with Careers Officer, Mrs Scott, to support their decision making on their next steps. Applications to join Ruskin's Sixth Form are at an all time high, as are Year 13 applications to university.

Planning for 2016/17 is already well underway with events that include a 'Skills for Life' programme delivered by the Royal Air Force, a 'Money Matters' sessions from Barclays Bank, group specific trips to The Skills Show in both London and Birmingham, plus an inspirational session courtesy of the 'Peers in School' programme when a member of the House of Lords, Lord Louth, will visit to tell students about life in Westminster—watch this space!

Charity News

Community continues to be a hugely important part of Academy life at Ruskin and our ongoing charity work is a central part of this. Term 5 saw students continue to raise awareness and much needed food donations for the Grantham Foodbank.

St Barnabas Hospice is one of the Academy's key chosen charities and we have several fundraising events planned for Term 6. These include 2 staff teams and a Sixth Form team participating in the 'It's a Knockout' competition at Wyndham Park on Thursday 9th June as well as a balloon release to remember loved ones which will take place on Friday 10th June.

We look forward to reporting the fundraising totals and photographs in the Term 6 newsletter.



Sports Digest Term 5

Term 5 has seen The Priory Ruskin PE Department move to the much anticipated summer sports programme of tennis, athletics, cricket and rounders.

The girls and boys tennis teams have begun the first round of fixtures in the Aegon Team tennis championships. This is only the second year that the girls have been involved in this competition and it is hoped that with this continued involvement we will see a great deal of progress in this area.

In cricket the Academy entered the County Cup at U13 and U15. The U13 team drew Spalding Grammar in the first round, fielding very well to reduce Spalding the 95 runs, however, they fell 20 runs short of the target after comprehensive bowling from the opposition. The U15 team played their rescheduled game after the first attempt was snowed off! A number of early wickets put the King's team in a very strong position who went onto win the game with a very strong batting line up.



Athletics has seen great success this year. In the recent District Athletics Championships the Ruskin Intermediate boys team finished in second place, missing out on gold by a very narrow margin of 9 points to Carre's Grammar School. A number of Ruskin athletes were selected to represent the district at the county event on Wednesday 8th June and a huge congratulations must be given to the following athletes; Jake Gibbons (100m/relay), Trinity Addison-Davis (Shot), Tia Chan (800m), Jakub Novak (1500m), Charlie Sharman (Hurdles/long jump), Luke Rowland (Long Jump), Logan Grieh (Shot), Melanie Church (Javelin), Praise Olalere (100m/200m/relay), Marcel Ludew (200m/800m), Lewis Davey (400m Hurdles/Long Jump), Jack Gurney (High Jump/Long Jump), Janis Kalva (Triple Jump), Jack Pirie (Shot/Discus), Alec Stewart (Discus), and Rohit Banda (Javelin). In addition, a large number of students represented the district at the combined events competition and have been selected to represent Lincolnshire team at the Regional championships on the 25th and 26th June. Those students selected are Charlie Sharman, Luke Rowland, Lewis Davey, Daniel Moore and Praise Olalere. This is the most representation the Academy has seen at this event and reflects the efforts

that have gone into developing athletics within the Department.

Further activities covered this term have included Ruskin's first ever handball team playing their first game against local rivals Sir William Robertson Academy; the team had been running through a number of set plays with Miss Dewar which they executed extremely well after a slightly frosty start, winning the game 15 goals to 7. A rematch has been scheduled in and we will keep you informed of results.



A number of rounders' fixtures have been completed this term with the Ruskin teams so far achieving a 100% win rate against local school opposition.

The Ruskin Rebels volleyball team are now coming towards the close of the season and are looking at gaining a mid-table finish in the league, this is extremely pleasing considering they are playing fixtures against adult teams on a full height net. A huge thank you must go to Mr Cairns for entering this team and for taking students to fixtures on very late evenings. Next year will see the introduction of a schools volleyball league which we are sure will prove very successful for a number of the Academy's students.



Keep up with the latest sports news on twitter by following [@ruskinsport](https://twitter.com/ruskinsport)

The Priory Ruskin Academy

Term 5 Newsletter

KEY DIARY DATES FOR TERM 6

Students Involved:

TERM 6

ALL	6th June	Term 6 begins
Y7 & Y8	7th June	Robin Stevens— author visit
Various	8th June	County Schools Athletics Championship
All	10th June	Balloon Release for St Barnabas Hospice
All	w/c 13th June	Academy Reading Week
Various Y8	13th June	Red Arrows Stem Day—RAF Scampton
Various Y9	14th & 15th June	Geography Field Trip—Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park
Y10	16th June	Y10 Parents' Evening
Various Y11	21st & 22nd June	Sixth Form Induction
Various	23rd June	Wind in the Willows—Tolethorpe
Y11	24th June	Y11 Leavers Assembly
Various Y7	w/c 27th June	Hepworth trip to France
Y12 & 13	27th June	BTEC Performing Arts Concert
All	28th June	PD Day
Various Prefects/helpers	30th June	Academy Open Day & Evening (Y5)
Y11	1st July	Y11 Leavers Prom
Primary Schools	7th July	Primary School Instrumental Day
Y13	7th July	Y13 Leavers Celebration
Y6 & Helpers	5th July	Y6 Welcome Day (Sept 2016 Y7 intake)
All	8th July	Sports Day at the Meres
Various Y10	w/c 11th July	French Trip
Various (all welcome)	11th July	Arts Extravaganza Evening
Various (all welcome)	13th July	Summer Concert
All	19th July	End of Term/Academic Year
Various	27th—30th July	Miss Saigon Summer Performance
Y7 & Y12	1st September	Term 1 2016-17 Begins (Y7 & Y12 ONLY)
ALL	2nd September	Term 1 2016/17 Begins (ALL)



Healthy Schools



The Mark of Quality
for Careers Education
and Guidance
2015-2017



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE | Bronze



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY